

Job Openings

A Profile of
in Utah

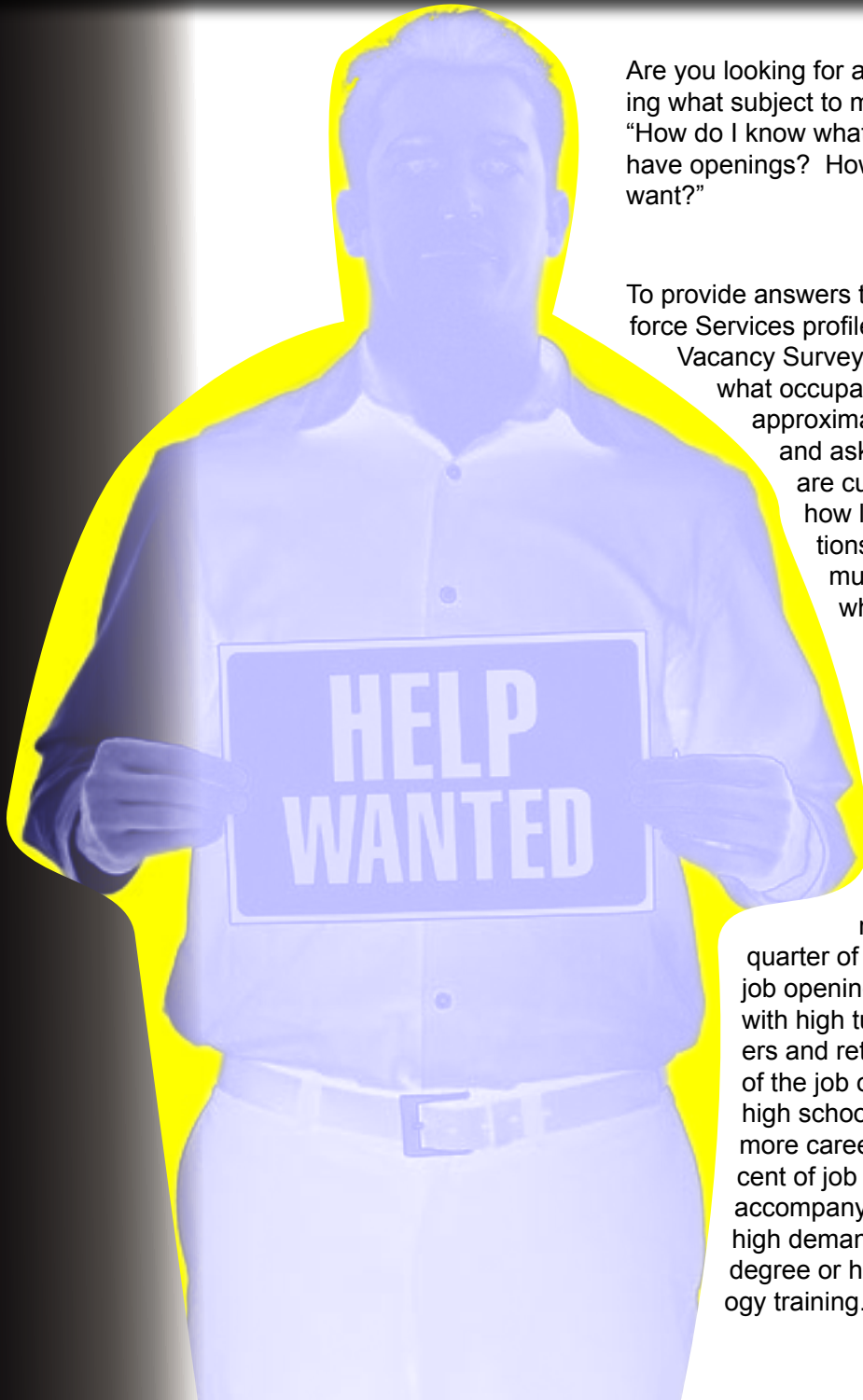
Job Vacancy Survey

By Mark Knold, Rob Stark, and Nate Talley

Are you looking for a job, planning a career path or even deciding what subject to major in? If so, you might be wondering, "How do I know what industries are hiring? Which occupations have openings? How much competition is there for the job I want?"

To provide answers to these questions, the Department of Workforce Services profiled Utah's job market by conducting a Job Vacancy Survey. To discover what jobs are "out there" and what occupations are in the most demand, we surveyed approximately 3,400 employers throughout the state and asked them to describe the jobs for which they are currently hiring. They responded by telling us how long the job had been vacant, what qualifications they expect from a job seeker, and how much they expect to pay this individual. Here's what we found:

The job vacancy rate for most metropolitan areas, including the Salt Lake Valley and surrounding locations, was approximately 2.1 percent. This means that there are about 2 job openings for every 100 people employed in this region. That translates into about 20,000 job openings in the region at any given time during the fourth quarter of 2004. As might be expected, most of the job openings consisted of lower-skilled occupations with high turnover rates, such as cashiers, telemarketers and retail salespersons. In fact, about 70 percent of the job openings required no education beyond high school. But for those of you who are interested in more career-oriented occupations, the other 30 percent of job openings are where the answers lie. The accompanying charts illustrate the metropolitan region's high demand occupations, which require a Bachelor's degree or higher, Associate degree, or Applied Technology training.



MetropolitanUtah

Openings
requiring bachelor degree +

Occupation ¹	JVS Average wage ²	Estimated number of openings	Estimated occupational employment	Vacancy rate
Loan Officer	\$18.42	116	2810	4.1%
Financial Manager	\$33.04	91	4240	2.2%
Comp Software Enginrs Systems Software	\$32.26	80	3120	2.6%
Lawyers	\$35.10	75	2930	2.6%
Sales Engineers	\$31.48	64	950	6.7%
Medical and Clinical Lab Technologists	\$17.10	52	1070	4.8%
Civil Engineers	\$24.31	51	1270	4%
Accountants and Auditors	\$19.54	48	5550	<1%
Financial Analysts	\$31.15	36	770	4.7%
Medical & Health Services Managers	\$30.95	35	1660	2.1%

¹ Wages are for job vacancies offered and do not represent the average wage of all employed persons. For Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage information access our website at <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/pubs/Wnl/dwsdefault.asp>

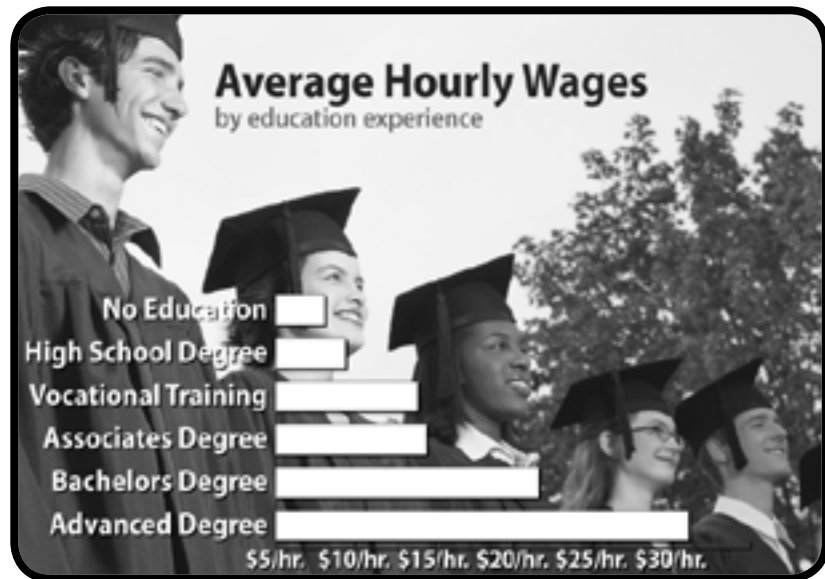
² Occupational descriptions are available online at <http://jobs.utah.gov>

Openings
requiring associate or
applied technology degree

Occupation ¹	JVS Average wage ²	Estimated number of openings	Estimated occupational employment	Vacancy rate
Registered Nurses	\$20.65	509	11360	4.5%
Plumbers, pipe-fitters and steam-fitters	\$16.48	253	4220	6%
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor trailer	\$16.91	209	10740	1.9%
Carpenters	\$11.89	117	8830	1.3%
Heating, air conditioning and refrigeration Mechanics	\$19.05	103	1120	9.2%
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialist	\$17.29	54	2260	2.4%
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	\$14.96	51	5200	1%
Industrial machinery mechanics	\$15.19	51	1370	3.7%
Vocational education teachers, postsecondary	\$15.16	50	1230	4.1%
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	\$13.87	49	2120	2.3%

Registered nurses lead the pack among the most in-demand occupations in Utah and had the highest average wage among top occupations that usually require an Associate degree or Applied Technology training.

Of the top occupations that require a Bachelor's degree or higher, lawyers averaged the highest wage at \$35.10 an hour. Financial managers were not far behind at \$33.36 an hour.



Are you an employer and want to know what the average offered wage is for an opening similar to one you're seeking to fill? Or want to know about Southwestern Utah's job vacancy situation? For comprehensive regional reports and complete Job Vacancy Survey results, access our website at <http://jobs.utah.gov>

educational requirements

